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Vietnam’s Informal Farmers’ Groups: Narratives and Policy Implications
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Abstract
The paper reports research on IFGs in Vietnam from the early 1990s as the power of official leaders in the rural areas who were identifiable, including the official cooperatives, whose lead carried over by the ruling Communist Party from reports on three research projects covering approximately mid 1990s to the mid 2000s. It argues that, for these community-based organisations and, where official structures in ways that contradict professed commitments to participatory and community-oriented Vietnamese officials appear to have support, especially at local level. Thus the growth of IFGs become substantial by the closing years of the 21st century, and lack of support from donors at national level and lack of support from donors and private businesses at the end of the 2000s that donors implied by their position, and that Vietnamese officials have supported and benefited from the situation, facing informal farmers’ groups. (Practical for publication January 3, 2008)

Keywords: rural development, democracy, Local development assistance

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Ethnicity, Equity and Conflict in Multi-Ethnic Countries: A Case Study of Malaysia

Edmund Terence Gomez

Abstract
This study assesses two hypotheses on the causes of ethnic conflict. The first argues that in democratic multi-ethnic countries where minority communities dominate the economy, if ethno-nationalist politicians mobilise the support of economically impoverished majority groups, racial segmentation will occur. An authoritarian system is therefore required until parity in equity ownership is achieved among all communities. The second hypothesis posits that daily civic engagement between ethnic groups helps contain racial conflict. What divides nations is the divisive politics of ethnicity by self-serving politicians. These hypotheses are tested through a study of multi-ethnic and authoritarian Malaysia. (Manuscript received November 15, 2007; accepted for publication January 23, 2008)

Keywords: ethnicity, equity, identity, enterprise development, democracy, Malaysia

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